

- |     |   |     |  |
|-----|---|-----|--|
| 1.  | Hajti fil-ġħabex...<br>qalbi bħall-bilbla tgħanni<br>qabel ma torqod. | 1.  | <i>My life's in the twilight...<br/>my heart like the skylark goes on<br/>singing before going to sleep.</i> |
| 2.  | Tal-poežija<br>mar-riħ din qalbi toghħla<br>bħal tajra mlewna.        | 2.  | <i>My heart flies up<br/>like a colourful kite<br/>with the wind of poesy.</i>                               |
| 3.  | Jiena bħall-ġħodwa...<br>kull jum noħloq dinja<br>ġidha ta' ġmiel.    | 3.  | <i>I am like dawn...<br/>every day I create a new<br/>world of beauty.</i>                                   |
| 4.  | Hadd ħadd ma jisma'<br>qniepen il-kampanella<br>ħlief il-poeta.       | 4.  | <i>Nobody hears<br/>the bells of the blue-bell<br/>except the poet.</i>                                      |
| 5.  | Ja kanarin!<br>oh! kieku kont taf tiżfen<br>il-għanja tiegħek!        | 5.  | <i>Oh canary!<br/>if you could dance<br/>your song!</i>  |
| 6.  | Deherli li rajt<br>pensjier itir mix-xitla –<br>kien il-farfett!      | 6.  | <i>I thought I saw<br/>a pansy flying from its plant –<br/>it was a butterfly!</i>                           |
| 7.  | Farfett sabiħ,<br>maħdum bis-simetrija,<br>int sunett t'Alla.         | 7.  | <i>A beautiful butterfly,<br/>wrought with symmetry,<br/>you are a sonnet of God!</i>                        |
| 8.  | Dalji fil-ġħaxija...<br>ix-xemx dalja ħamrana,<br>il-qamar bajda.     | 8.  | <i>Dahlias in the evening...<br/>the sun a red dahlia,<br/>the moon a white one.</i>                         |
| 9.  | F'qalb ommi hemm iżjed<br>fjuri milli fil-ġonna<br>kollha tad-dinja.  | 9.  | <i>In my mother's heart<br/>there are more flowers than in<br/>all the gardens of the world.</i>             |
| 10. | Wiżżeġ fl-ġħadira,  | 10. | <i>A swan on the lake,</i>   |

u wiżża fis-smewwiet –  
Alla fit-tnejn.

*and a swan in the skies –  
God is in both.*

11. Hadtni ħdejn sigra  
tal-ward u qtajtli warda:  
jien fhimt, int fhimt.

11. *You took me to a  
rose-tree and plucked a rose for me;  
I understood, you understood.*

12. Din qalbi l-lvant,  
u inti x-xemx li tiela'  
minnha fid-dija.

12. *My heart is the east,  
and you are the sun rising  
from it in glamour.*

13. Il-ħabel jiena  
ħdejn il-bir tal-imħabba,  
u inti s-satal.

13. *I am the rope  
beside love's well,  
and you are the pail.*

14. Il-ħajt bejniethom,  
minn fuqu barri u baqra  
flimkien jitbewsu.

14. *The wall divides them,  
but across it a bull and a cow  
lick each other.*

15. Grazzi Mulej!  
grazzi tan-ngħaq u l-ħrief,  
grazzi tas-sriep.

15. *Thank you, Lord,  
Thank you for the sheep and the  
lambs, thank you for the snakes.*

16. Kollox kif hu  
inhobb; il-widnejn twal  
tal-ħmar għax twal.

16. *I like everything  
as it is; the long ears of the  
donkey because they are long.*

17. Kemm huma ħomor  
il-peprin f'nofs il-qamħ!  
kemm huma ħomor!

17. *How red are the poppies  
amongst the corn,  
how red they are!*

18. It-tnejn mar-riħ  
nitbandlu, ja peprina,  
it-tnejn kuntenti.

18. *Both of us lulled  
by the wind, poppy!  
both happy.*

19. Dija tal-ġħodwa;  
bebbuxu fuq is-sigra

19. *The morning sunshine;  
a snail on a tree*

bil-kannuccali.

*with his binoculars.*

- 20.** Is-silhouette;  
blata sura ta' mara.  
oħra ta' baqra.

- 20.** *The silhouette;  
a rock with a woman's figure,  
another with a cow's.*

- 21.** Familja kbira  
ta' blat fl-irdum iħarsu  
għal fuq il-baħar.

- 21.** *A big family  
of rocks looking from the cliff  
into the sea.*

- 22.** Taret ħamiema;  
warajha tnejn, erbgħa, għaxra,  
għoxrin u mijha!

- 22.** *A pigeon flew up;  
after it two, four, ten,  
twenty, one hundred!*

- 23.** Tallab qed jiekol,  
l-ħasafar ħdejh ilaqqtu  
il-frak tal-ħobż.

- 23.** *The beggar is eating;  
the birds beside him picking  
the bread crumbs.*

- 24.** Qalbi bħal xitla  
mal-ħajt tal-ġnien tixxabbat  
biex tara 'l wiċċek.

- 24.** *My heart like a plant  
climbs up the garden wall  
to see your face.*

- 25.** Qalbek għalija  
hi l-isbaħ dar tad-dinja  
biex ngħammar fiha.

- 25.** *For me your heart  
is the world's most beautiful  
house to dwell in.*

- 26.** Il-farfett jaf  
kif isoff l-ħasel ħelu  
minn fomm ix-xewk.

- 26.** *The butterfly knows  
how to suck sweet honey  
from the thistle's mouth.*

- 27.** Sabiħ id-dawl!  
'mma dawk li jridu jorqdu  
iħobbu d-dlam.

- 27.** *Light is beautiful!  
but those who wish to sleep  
like darkness*

- 28.** L-ingwanta tilfet  
seħbitha, u baqgħet dejjem  
f'kexxun weħidha.

- 28.** *The glove lost its  
pair, and remained for ever  
alone in the drawer.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>29.</b> Il-bdiewa siefru;<br/>u tara biss fl-għelieqi<br/>irġiel tat-tiben.</p>     | <p><b>29.</b> <i>The farmers have emigrated;<br/>in the fields one can see<br/>only scarecrows.</i></p>  |
| <p><b>30.</b> ġol-wied il-qasab<br/>ilegleg u jixxengel,<br/>sakran ta' dejjem!</p>       | <p><b>30.</b> <i>The reeds in the valley<br/>imbibe and stagger,<br/>eternal drunkards!</i></p>          |
| <p><b>31.</b> Qalb kollha ḥeġġa!<br/>qed thammar il-ponsettja<br/>fil-bard tax-xitwa.</p> | <p><b>31.</b> <i>A heart full of ardour!<br/>the poinsettia reddens<br/>in the winter cold.</i></p>      |
| <p><b>32.</b> B'linka tal-fidda<br/>mal-ħajt il-bebbux kiteb<br/>il-heroglifiċi.</p>      | <p><b>32.</b> <i>With a silver ink<br/>the snails have written<br/>heroglyphics on the rocks.</i></p>    |
| <p><b>33.</b> Bħall-mara xiħa<br/>id-dielja mgħawġa sserrah<br/>fuq il-bastun.</p>        | <p><b>33.</b> <i>Like an old woman<br/>the bent vine supports<br/>herself on a stick.</i></p>            |
| <p><b>34.</b> Helu l-qattus!<br/>iżda eħla minnu t-tfajjal<br/>iġħajjat “mjaw!”</p>       | <p><b>34.</b> <i>Sweet is the cat,<br/>but sweeter still is the child<br/>crying “miaou!”</i></p>        |
| <p><b>35.</b> Fjuri tal-lewża<br/>ġewwa vażett – bħal silta<br/>minn poežija.</p>         | <p><b>35.</b> <i>Almond flowers<br/>in a vase – a quotation<br/>from a poem.</i></p>                     |
| <p><b>36.</b> L-erbgħa jixgħelu...<br/>żeww għażiex ħomor tondi,<br/>għajnejk tutin.</p>  | <p><b>36.</b> <i>The four are alight<br/>two round red peppers,<br/>your black eyes.</i></p>             |
| <p><b>37.</b> Bħal kampanella,<br/>bla ħoss iddoqq din qalbi<br/>fix-xemx ta' wiċċek.</p> | <p><b>37.</b> <i>Like a bluebell,<br/>my heart rings soundlessly<br/>under the sun of your face.</i></p> |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>38.</b> Qabel niltaqgħu<br/>qalbi tifrah bħall-qniepen<br/>lejlet il-festa.</p> <p><b>39.</b> L-ilma maħmuġ<br/>ġewwa l-għadira – l-qamar<br/>jiddi ġo fih.</p> <p><b>40.</b> Illum jum ħieni<br/>għalkemm bla xemx; ix-xita<br/>qed taqdi dmirha.</p> <p><b>41.</b> Hienja r-rebbiegħa<br/>imliet l-ghalqa battala<br/>kollha peprin.</p> <p><b>42.</b> Fjuri u għasafar<br/>is-shab tat-tfal inħobb –<br/>bqajt dejjem tifel.</p> <p><b>43.</b> J'Alla ngħid f'mewti:<br/>“illum tempesta kbira<br/>iżd’għada bnazzi.”</p> <p><b>44.</b> Mulej, int tara<br/>is-siġra fiż-żerriegħa –<br/>jien nemmen biss!</p> <p><b>45.</b> Ix-xemx kuljum<br/>tfaqqas il-wiżżeq fis-sema<br/>minn ta’ kull lewn.</p> <p><b>46.</b> Il-fjura f’qalbi<br/>daħlet – minn imnieħri<br/>u minn ġħajnejja.</p> | <p><b>38.</b> <i>Before we meet<br/>my heart is happy like the bells<br/>on the eve of the village-feast.</i></p> <p><b>39.</b> <i>The foul water<br/>of the swamp – the moon<br/>shines in it.</i></p> <p><b>40.</b> <i>Today is a happy day<br/>although it is sunless: the rain<br/>is doing its duty.</i></p> <p><b>41.</b> <i>The happy Spring<br/>filled the uncultivated field<br/>with poppies.</i></p> <p><b>42.</b> <i>Flowers and birds,<br/>the companions of childhood, I love –<br/>I have always remained a child.</i></p> <p><b>43.</b> <i>May I say at my death:<br/>“today is a big storm,<br/>but tomorrow will be fair.”</i></p> <p><b>44.</b> <i>Oh! Lord, you see<br/>the tree in the seed –<br/>I only believe it.</i></p> <p><b>45.</b> <i>The sun every day<br/>hatches swans<br/>of every colour in the sky.</i></p> <p><b>46.</b> <i>The flower entered<br/>into my heart – through my nose<br/>and my eyes.</i></p> |
|---|---|

- |     |  |     |  |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 47. | Tal-wiżże l-libsa<br>tqattgħet... ‘mma min sewwiha<br>u ġabha ġdida? | 47. | <i>The swan's frock<br/>was torn... but who mended it<br/>as if it were new?</i>             |
| 48. | Lin-nagħġga jisboq<br>il-ġilju – uliedu kollha<br>bojod bla tebgħha. | 48. | <i>The white lily surpasses<br/>the sheep – all its children<br/>are spotlessly white.</i>   |
| 49. | Tal-bilbla l-għanja<br>waqfet – qalbi mis-sema<br>niżlet ġo sidri.   | 49. | <i>The song of the skylark<br/>ceased – my heart came down<br/>from the sky to my chest.</i> |
| 50. | Jiena mhux ħlejqa<br>ta' Alla bħall-għasfur;<br>jien ibnu nixbħu.    | 50. | <i>I am not a creature<br/>of God like the bird;<br/>I am his son and his image.</i>         |